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Letter dated 30 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the meeting in Gaborone concerning the inter-Congolese pre-dialogue issued on 30 August 2001 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **De Ruyt**
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 30 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the meeting in Gaborone concerning the inter-Congolese pre-dialogue issued on 30 August 2001 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the positive spirit with which all the participants in the inter-Congolese pre-dialogue meeting approached the discussions in Gaborone, Botswana, from 20 to 24 August 2001.

This initial exercise has the merit of giving a fresh impetus to national reconciliation by reflecting the participants' shared desire to put an end to the war, preserve the country's independence and unity and establish democracy.

In this connection, the European Union notes with satisfaction that the next inter-Congolese dialogue meeting will be held in Addis Ababa starting on 15 October 2001.

The European Union strongly encourages all the Congolese parties to continue to work in the same spirit of compromise and conciliation as that which prevailed in Gaborone.

The European Union wishes to congratulate all the parties, as well as the facilitator, Mr. Masire, and his team, for their intense work before and during the meeting in Gaborone; it reaffirms its support for the facilitation efforts.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.